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it to the hospital and trimmed it. By eleven o'clock, hundreds of men, women, and children filled the place; some had come as far as 30 miles for the celebration. How little we appreciate our blessings in comparison with these. First they had a religious service, simple and beautiful, then a dinner was served, and then they gathered round the tree, sang carols, and a present of some sort was found for every one. They all went away happy, which is a rare thing in their sad lives. The next day the nurse took presents and food to the influenza sufferers in their hogans and returned radiant because she had been able to cheer so many. Is that not the true spirit of Christmas?

A. L. D.

INSTRUCTION IN HYGIENE FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Dear Editor: Every woman should know something about nursing. The ignorance along these lines among the educated, well-to-do is simply appalling. Why not have a course of nursing principles, similar to the course in "Elementary Hygiene and Home Care of the Sick," given now by the Red Cross, taught in the Public Schools? This should be made compulsory in the eighth grade and in the first year of high school. This ought to insure better hygiene in the homes within a generation, and would be of inestimable help during an epidemic.

Nebraska

REGISTERED NURSE.

DOMESTIC SERVICE

Dear Editor: I attended, recently, a meeting called by the United States Employment Bureau at which various organizations were represented. A speaker from the Bureau stated that she had on file 350 calls for domestics and could only fill 7, that day. She also stated that she has three problems to cope with: (1) Lack of domestic servants; (2) The middle-aged woman wanting employment and not wanted by the employer; (3) Untrained workers asking for clerical work, those incapable of being clerical workers, but who decline to be anything else. The first problem was discussed from many standpoints. Statistics show the remarkable fact that only six hundred servant girls have landed in New York City during the past four years. Young women who, before the war, were contented in domestic service, have been drawn into men's work by the war conditions and refuse to go back into domestic service; that is, to "live in." They have had a taste of independence and they say they do not intend to return to the subservient life of a domestic. They are willing to work by the day at housework, but they wish to go home at night, and, really, who could blame them? They are willing to work in factories for less money, rather than return into so-called service. From the standpoint of the employers, people of moderate incomes, who live in small apartments, it would seem as though a regular servant would be unobtainable and the employer must be contented with four or five hours of work a day from a visiting helper. We, of the small income group, may be compelled to resort to a cafeteria for a dinner, after a day's work, if servants are unobtainable. It is not such a bad idea, either. Cafeterias, as run in the large cities on the Pacific Slope, are very attractive places; one gets good hot food at medium prices. One to every block in the apartment-house section of New York City would make us fairly independent of cooks; our laundry work could go out, and a woman could come in once a week to clean. This may be the condition a few months hence. Some apartment houses are dismissing the female operators on elevators and switch-boards to give the jobs to returned soldiers. What will become of these discharged women? Perhaps, later on, they will be

glad to return to domestic service. The Young Women's Christian Association and many other such organizations are opening courses in housekeeping, and college girls, even, are expected to enter the classes. The graduates will be called "Home Assistants," an attractive title. The second problem is that of the middle-aged woman; she usually has trouble with her eyes and the employer does not want poor eye-sight. As a remedy,—coax her, bribe her, drive her, to get correct glasses and to wear them, and her eyes are restored. She also walks lame and gets tired; drive her again to an orthopedic shoe store and have her properly shod, and now her walking usefulness is restored. She has experience, she has had her pleasures, she is interested in practical things, so why should she not be useful to her employer? We must educate the public to want middle-aged women, they are often of more value than younger ones, who have not had time to appreciate the values of life, who are seeking pleasure and are only interested in their work, with a view to pay day. The third problem is that of the untrained clerical worker. Grammar school girls graduate at the age of fourteen and a half. Some of them have set their hearts on being clerical workers in an office. They may even take a business course, and the teacher may take their money, knowing that the pupil cannot graduate as a first class clerical worker. Now our part, as Social Workers, is to convince these girls, in the first place, that they should go to high school, that they should take the two weeks' test given by a trade school where the girls are tried out in various lines of work. If a girl feels she has not time for high school get her a clerkship if possible, but by all means aim at high school; even if she only gets one year, it is better than none. Skilled labor is *always* in demand and now the time has arrived when the public will pay well for the simplest help if it is satisfactory help in every sense of the word.

Harlem Hospital, New York.

JOSEPHINE HILL,
Social Service Worker.

THE EIGHT-HOUR DAY

Dear Editor: I am a nurse, graduate and registered, with twenty years of actual experience. During this time I have been a night nurse many times and am doing night duty at the present time, twelve hours of duty. In the January number of the JOURNAL, I see the eight-hour day for nurses discussed, but the night nurse is left out entirely. Why not give the eight-hour time to both pupil and graduate nurse, in all kinds of hospitals? The Federal law will soon require women to work not more than eight hours per day, and then the schedule will have to be arranged accordingly. If night nurses do not protest against the long hours, they will be considered satisfied with their long working hours. I, for one, advocate the eight-hour day for all nurses. It will, indeed, increase the expense of the hospital, but I notice the hospital does not do without food, nor medicine, just because the prices have increased. Nurses are human beings, and if the profession is to progress, the hours of duty must be shortened.

Delaware

A. H.

(The plea for an eight-hour day, published in the January JOURNAL, included provision for the night nurse, page 295.—Ed.)

RANK FOR NURSES

To the Presidents, Officers and Members of State Associations:

On January 28, 1919, as a result of the mid-year conference of its directors in New York City, the American Nurses' Association through its secretary, Katharine DeWitt, wrote the presidents of all the state associations asking their